

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

PM-03 DODE-00 SAM-01 SP-02 EB-03 OMB-01 AF-04 NEA-07

ACDA-10 /064 W

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R 121158Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0301

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 15135

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PO FR

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO FRANCE

JUNE 4-7

SUMMARY: GOF SEIZED OPPORTUNITY OF PRESIDENT COSTA

GOMEZ VISIT TO HOLD OUT HOPE OF EUROPEAN AND BILATERAL

ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL PROVIDED ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT

REVERSES TREND TOWARD MILITARY DICTATORSHIP AND TAKES

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STEPS TO CURB POWER OF COMMUNIST PARTY. FRENCH SEEM

PERSUADED THAT THERE IS STILL SOME HOPE FOR MODERATES,
AND HOPE THAT CARROT-STICK METHOD WILL DO SOME GOOD.
END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE,
JACQUES ANDREANI, GAVE POLCOUNSELOR FOLLOWING READOUT OF
PRESIDENT COSTA GOMEZ VISIT TO FRANCE JUNE 4-7.

2. POLITICAL. COSTA GOMEZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES
MADE PASSIONATE PLEA FOR EUROPEAN FAITH IN PLURALISTIC
DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL, AND FOR EUROPEAN ASSISTANCE TO
PORTUGUESE ECONOMY. PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING REPLIED
THAT FRENCH GOVERNMENT WELCOMED THE PORTUGUESE REVOLU-
TION, AND WAS WILLING TO ASSIST PORTUGAL, BUT IT WAS UP
TO PORTUGAL TO DETERMINE THE PACE AND DEGREE OF ASSIS-
TANCE BY TAKING CONCRETE MEASURES TO DEVELOP DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS. SEPARATELY TO FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES,
ANTUNES SAID THERE IS GROWING REALIZATION WITHIN AFM
THAT COMMUNIST PARTY IS DANGEROUS AND NOT REALLY WORKING
FOR THE BEST INTERESTS OF PORTUGAL. SAUVAGNARGUES LATER
TOLD HIS ASSOCIATES THAT HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY
ANTUNES.

3. ECONOMIC. IN RESPONSE TO PORTUGUESE REQUESTS FOR
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY IMMEDIATE BALANCE OF PAY-
MENTS ASSISTANCE FROM THE EC-9, GOF WAS NONCOMMITTAL.
ANTUNES WAS INFORMED THAT GOF WOULD BE STUDYING REPORT
OF IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD. ON BILATERAL
LEVEL GOF AGREED TO INCREASE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN
CONTEXT OF AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH CAETANO REGIME.
ANDREANI SAID THIS WOULD ONLY BE TOKEN AMOUNT. GOF HAS
CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR MAJOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORT
IN PORTUGAL PROVIDED INTERNAL SITUATION IMPROVES. CUL-
TURAL COOPERATION WILL ALSO BE INCREASED. BILATERAL
INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION COMMISSION, ALSO ESTABLISHED
UNDER CAETANO, WILL BE REACTIVATED. PORTUGUESE SAID
THEY EXPECTED GOF WOULD BE PLEASED WITH NEW INVESTMENT

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CODE SOON TO BE PUBLISHED.

4. NATO. GOMEZ REITERATED WELL PUBLICIZED LINE THAT PORTUGAL INTENDS TO HONOR NATO COMMITMENT. HE SAID THAT WITH RETURN OF TROOPS FROM ANGOLA, PORTUGAL WILL HAVE GREATER CAPABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO COMMON DEFENSE EFFORT. ONLY CLOUD ON HORIZON IS PORTUGUESE REFUSAL TO ALLOW INVOLVEMENT OF AZORES BASE FACILITIES IN ANY
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FUTURE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

5. ANGOLA. ANDREANI SAID PORTUGUESE SPENT A LOT OF TIME WORRYING ABOUT ANGOLA. THEY SAID RETURN OF PORTUGUESE WHITES FROM ANGOLA WAS ALWAYS CONSIDERED A DIFFICULT PROBLEM BECAUSE THEY WOULD COME BACK ANGRY AT REVOLUTIONARY REGIME. BUT IN VIEW OF INCIPIENT CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA, WHITES ARE GOING TO COME BACK SOONER AND ANGRIER, WHICH WILL NOT HELP STABILITY IN PORTUGAL. ANTUNES TOLD SAUVAGNARGUES THAT GOP HAD MADE A BAD MISTAKE BY SUPPORT-

ING MPLA, AND WOULD TRY TO REVERSE THIS TENDENCY IF IT IS NOT TOO LATE. HE INDICATED THAT GOP NOW CONSIDERS JONAS SAVIMBI OF UNITA THE NATIONALIST LEADER WORTHY OF SUPPORT.

6. CSCE. ANDREANI SAID ANTUNES CAME UP WITH A SURPRISING AND WELCOME CHANGE OF POLICY ON "FOLLOW-UP" TO CSCE. THE PREVIOUS GOP LINE FAVORED THE NEUTRALIST VIEW WHICH SEEKS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE "FOLLOW-UP." THE GOP NOW SUPPORTING THE DANISH PROPOSAL FOR A REVIEW MEETING THREE TO FIVE YEARS AFTER STAGE THREE.

7. OVERALL IMPACT. ANDREANI SAID FRENCH WERE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THEIR VISITORS WHO ARE NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVES OF REAL POWER IN PORTUGAL. NEVERTHELESS, GOF HAS DECIDED NOT TO ABANDON PORTUGAL AT THIS JUNCTURE, AND WILL PROCEED WITH CAUTIOUS ASSISTANCE ON BOTH BILATERAL AND EUROPEAN LEVELS.
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